

THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL Counsellor

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vol. 9 No. 6

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

June, 1964

HERE FROM SARAWAK



STUDY MUNICIPAL SYSTEM: Morshidi Bin Haji Shaharin (left) and Michael T.S. Tan, administrative officers from Sarawak, Federation of Malaysia, confer with A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, during their three weeks study of local government in Alberta. Coming to Canada under The Colombo Plan, the two young officials have been studying at Ottawa's Carleton University since September of 1963. (Alberta Government Photo)

THREE DEATHS IN MAY

Members of the Department of Municipal Affairs were saddened in May by the sudden passing of three young people, two of whom were fellow staff members. Eric Tandrup, an assessor with the Department since 1954, died when a light plane he was flying crashed at Edmonton's Municipal Airport on May 23. On May 17, Stewart Ross Isbister, 18, son of A.R. Isbister, Director of Field Service, was killed when the car in which he was a passenger failed to make a turn in the road near St. Albert.

Mrs. Margaret Evans who worked with the Field Service Branch in 1962 and 1963 died in Medicine Hat on May 2, three weeks short of her thirty-first birthday. She had been in ill health for some time.

Mr. Tandrup was known across Canada as one of the nations top marksmen, having represented Alberta at Ottawa six years and as a member of Canada's Bisley team in 1958. Born at Athabasca September 16, 1932, he held a commission in the 19th Alberta Dragoons and at his death was instructing for an aviation company.

PROVINCIAL and NATIONAL ASSESSORS' ASSOCIATIONS

TO HOLD JOINT CONFERENCE

A record number of delegates from all parts of Canada is expected to attend the Canadian Association of Assessing Officers' convention slated for Edmonton's Macdonald Hotel from June 23 to 26. Held this year in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Alberta Assessors' Association, the occasion marks the first time the national body of assessors has met in this Province.

Highlight planned for the convention include an analysis of whether or not uniformity of assessment legislation is possible throughout Canada, a discussion dealing with the C.P.R. exemption from taxation and the use of market value as a base for assessments.

The conference will be attended by Provincial (To Page 7)

o ANNUAL LETTER TO SECRETARIES

SUMMARY OF '64 LEGISLATION

A summary of enactments pertaining to municipal administration as approved at the last session of the Alberta Legislature was mailed to secretary-treasurers of municipal districts, counties, towns and villages in May. Prepared by Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector, the summary deals with amendments to twenty-three Acts and The Nursing Homes Act which is new. The Provincial Parks Act 1964 replaces the 1955 version, but as Mr. Ramsay points out, its provisions concerning municipalities remain much the same as in the previous Act.

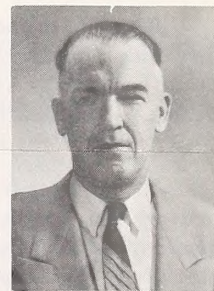
Introducing the summary Mr. Ramsay emphasized the fact that complete information should be obtained from copies of the various amendments available from the Queen's Printer.

The first part of the summary follows:

The Assessment Act

Section 2 (h) (v):

This amendment provides that a farm residence situate in a rural municipality will be liable to assessment and taxation if it is located on a parcel of land not exceeding one acre in extent and if such parcel forms a part of a registered plan or subdivision.



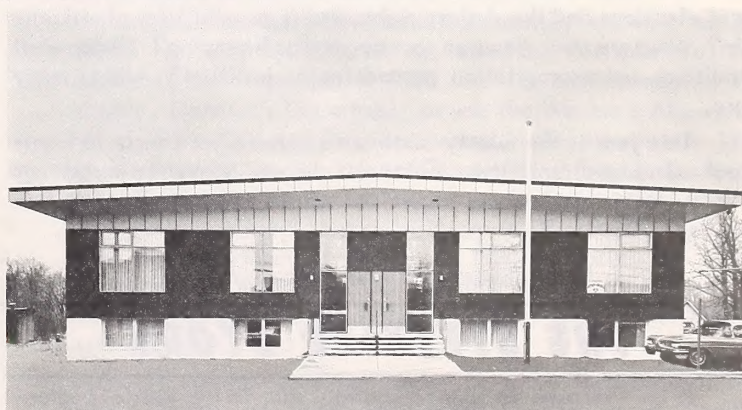
Presently a farm residence is assessable if located on a lot created by a subdivision of land in a hamlet.

Section 2 (j1):

With the change in the definition of "farm buildings" the definition of "lot" is no longer required.

Section 2 (p):

The definition of "purchaser" is being broadened to include the purchaser of improvements. This change is necessary to ensure that a purchaser will include a person who is also purchasing improvements situated on exempt land which improvements are assessable to the owner thereof and apart from the land. (To Page 7)



NEW HOME OFFICE: Ribbon-cutting ceremonies conducted by Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs A.W. Morrison April 17 officially opened the new home of the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31 at High River. Previously, Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways, opened the new bridge over the Highwood River. Addresses by provincial and local officials paid tribute to the work of Alberta pioneers. The M.D. Office was constructed at a cost of \$120,000 "as it stood." The bridge replaces one built in 1914.

THE SECOND PAGE . . .

COUNTRY SCHOOLHOUSE MEMORY

The sharp pointed drone of flies
Pinned us to the paint - white wall;
The hand-flat heat of summer held us there.
The conversation idled, almost ceased,
Our thoughts on coming holidays to share.

We would not know a better time,
More perfect age, more perfect day.
Impatient youth for future always strives,
Never admitting now is near and fine,
Wishing away our very little lives.

o Delphine Burrel, Sundre

A FAR-RANGING FIELD

News that the Refresher course held at Banff this month is based on the total tax function underlines something of which we have long been aware . . . and that is the breadth, width and depth of the municipal field. In making this observation we have neither intention nor need to boast, but are probably pointing out the obvious. Obvious or not, we think it will bear a little examination and may even serve to explain why some of us never venture further than arm's length beyond a set of municipal statutes.

Speaking personally and after some years of exposure to the subject, we freely admit there are paths we dare not tread . . . even with the book wide open.

But back to the course program. The theme could well begin with efforts to establish a fair and equitable basis of value. In its various branches this field in itself embraces a number of careers, and because it provides the foundation for the tax levy effecting almost every pocket in the land it is a highly sensitive subject.

The next step from the program is the tax levy and all it implies. Here, we would think may be included something of the philosophy of taxation. Is our property tax too dependent upon the ability to pay principle or does it pay too little attention to the benefit principle? What makes it so high? Is it obsolete? And if so with what might it be replaced?

Next comes the art of collecting taxes which includes a study of discounts and penalties. This brings into focus the nature of title deeds and the whole status of ownership. What happens if one doesn't pay his taxes? Herein is a serious implication, but hardly hopeless because losing title is a long process with every reasonable advantage going to the ratepayer.

There are other facets of taxation such as the equalization of assessments as applied to municipal totals, the requisitioning process upon our taxing authorities and, in Alberta, our foundation programs relating to education and hospital financing. After all these are talked out discussion of the municipal field has barely begun. What about the types of municipal administration, the proper conduct of local elections and the duties, rights and responsibilities of citizenship? What are your views on pay-as-you-go financing? Under what conditions can expropriation procedures be justified? And so many more.

This year is the twenty-sixth annual refresher course in municipal administration. It is doubtful if there will ever be a shortage of study material, because municipal affairs are just about as far-ranging as life itself.

Another fairly obvious statement to be sure.

THE STETTTLER STORY

It isn't because we spent a youthful year in the district and enjoyed every scatter-brained, irresponsible minute of it. We are extending congratulations to the Town of Stettler because the administration there has again produced one of the most interesting annual reports and financial statements we have seen.

At first glance the handsome 44-page publication could be taken for a tourist booklet. That it is. It might also serve as a promotion piece designed for visiting dignitaries and inquiring industrialists.

That it is too. Above all it tells what's going on at Stettler and those who examine it will probably find it contains more answers than they have questions.

For what used to be called the frontispiece, the booklet displays the coat of arms of the Stettler family after one of whom the Town was named. Following this is a reproduction of the proclamation erecting the Town dated "this 23rd day of November 1906". Interspersed with photographs of banks, hotels, motels and scenes about town are facts and figures telling the Stettler story and of course the financial statement for 1963.

Achievements of Stettler athletes are noted, and a map of the townsite is given centre page prominence. The Report of the Stettler Consolidated School District is also included. And finally, so there will be no mistaking its location, a map on the back cover proves the truth of the slogan "Town of Stettler, Heart of Alberta".

A commendable job, Stettler. As we said . . . our congratulations.

o Jack Gorman in The CALGARY HERALD

BANFF

THIS PLACE renowned the world over for its breathtaking scenery and rugged grandeur was originally given the unromantic title "Siding 29."

After the Kicking Horse Pass was selected as the route for the trans-Canada railway, a preliminary survey line was run from Lake Louise to Fort Calgary, crossing the Bow River somewhere near the present Banff Bridge. The line required a 900-foot tunnel through Tunnel Mountain, but William Van Horne, CP president, balked and ordered a simpler route be found.

Further exploration turned up the Cascade Trench which shortened the line by a mile and a half and caused the first settlement to be established on the site of the Buffalo Paddocks on the east side of Banff townsite. The settlement was named Siding 29. It is believed Siding 29 was renamed Banff sometime before 1885 by Lord Strathcona.

It was during the search for a railway route that the Sulphur Springs were discovered. In 1885, before private interests were allowed to exploit the discovery, the federal government reserved an area of 10 square miles around the Sulphur Springs in the name of the people of Canada and this became Canada's first national park.

A road was surveyed and a man named George Stewart was commissioned to plan a new townsite. Meanwhile, at the end of 1886, a few shacks, two hotels, three stores and a livery stable had been built up around the original Siding 29 location.

At the same time CP scheduled construction of the Banff Springs Hotel at the confluence of the Bow and Spray rivers closer to Mr. Stewart's new townsite. Gradually lots in the new townsite were taken up and it began to rival the earlier Siding 29 establishment. Royal Northwest Mounted Police were posted at a point midway between the two settlements and in 1889 both townsites boasted a post office.

The fate of Siding 29 was finally decided when the CP announced the decision to build a new depot in the new townsite. Residents followed the development, moved to the new location while Siding 29 withered for lack of activity.

THIS MONTH

The NEW LOOK of WELFARE
By Hon. L.C. Halmrast, Minister of Public Welfare 3
FLEXIBILITY in POWER RESOURCES
Excerpts from The Alberta Power Commission Report 4
SUMMARY of 1964 LEGISLATION - (First of Two Parts)
Prepared by Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector . . . 1
Secretary's Calendar for July. 5
Through the Mail 7
Long in the Service: D. PROKOP 8

THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL COUNSELLOR
Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department,
Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

Published monthly by the Department of Municipal Affairs, Government of Alberta, for better understanding between persons engaged in the various aspects of local government within the Province. Contents may be reprinted without restriction but a credit line is appreciated. Articles and information about the municipal scene are welcomed and the publication will be mailed without charge upon request. Address enquiries to

The Alberta Municipal Counsellor
Department of Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta



THE NEW LOOK OF WELFARE

BY HON. L. C. HALMAST
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WELFARE

" . . . THE IDEA of making public assistance a contest between officials and individuals struggling for survival for themselves and their families becomes ludicrous."

Over the past half century or so, welfare has moved from charitable institutions and alms-giving to a very functional part of our modern economy. As various areas of need were identified, legislation was enacted to control and formalize the help given. Today our free and democratic society charges the Department of Public Welfare with the responsibility to ensure that no citizen of this Province will want for the basic necessities to maintain life and well-being. If one could see the total province as a kaleidoscope with individuals shown as dotted lights, it would give an idea of the continual change, the endless shifting of people from point to point, job to job, and if one could show the emotional content of this vast pattern by varying the intensity of the dotted lights, in other words, to attempt to show the human factors, then one could suspect the astonishing complexity of change which is occurring daily all around us. It is only reasonable to recognize that some people do become displaced, even though temporarily, and unless an adequate program of help is operating effectively then the consequence will not only result in individual tragedies, but will also reflect into the whole social structure. Forces affecting the pattern to change include not only individual choice and decision but also the larger socio-economic factors such as the changing labour market resulting from automation, the new mobility of people, specialization and so on. The point is that individuals are frequently subject to circumstances beyond their control and consequently might require help from some agency to carry on.

In order to accept this challenge, welfare programming has had to grow and it must continue to be flexible. There have, of course, been some growing pains. There are still problems which must be faced squarely and realistically. We can, however, gain some perspective with a quick look at the past and we can make some projection into future planning.

The Department operates under three main service branches--the Public Assistance Branch, the Child Welfare Branch, the Homes and Institutions Branch and administratively we have a centralized Accounts Branch. Also under the Administration Division is the Metis Rehabilitation Branch which is set up under the Metis Betterment Act of 1940. The total number of staff positions is 662, of which 247 are Social Workers. The Department is represented by 25 regional offices throughout the Province.

THE CHILD WELFARE BRANCH:

The first welfare legislation was the Children's Protection Act of 1909 and this provided for a Superintendent of Child Welfare, for wardship action by the courts and for foster homes and institutional care for children. The Act was amended in 1923 to provide for the legal adoption of children who became permanent wards. At the present time there are more than 5,300 children who are wards of the Superintendent. About 1,000 children are placed annually for adoption. These figures are increasing. This branch is conducting intensive campaign to endeavour to find more and better homes for children. The idea of custodial institutional care for children is becoming more a thing of the past and highly specialized care is being encouraged to replace this. Because of increasing numbers of children coming into care the whole concept of wardship is being reviewed.

THE HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS BRANCH:

This, the newest branch, operates by authority of The Welfare Homes Act 1963, and also administers The Homes for the Aged Act of 1959. The latter Act pioneered in the provision of legislation for homes for the aged whereby the Government of Alberta made arrangements to build lodge-type homes for the accommodation of elderly citizens in the rural areas of Alberta and lodge-type dwellings and low rental housing units to accommodate 800 persons in each of the cities of Edmonton and Calgary. At present, 42 of the 50 prospective homes in the rural areas are completed and accommodation for 630 persons in Edmonton, and 600 in Calgary are ready for occupancy. These homes have filled a very real need of the elderly persons and all lodges are operating at near capacity.

The Homes and Institutions Branch is responsible for licensing all child care and other welfare institutions in the Province and es-

tablishes and maintains standards. The Single Men's Hostels at Edmonton and Calgary, and the Gunn Welfare Centre are supervised by this branch in addition to such operations as the Rosecrest Home and the Pineview Home for unwed mothers. These latter homes were designed and built for this department and are leased to the operators at a nominal fee.

THE METIS REHABILITATION BRANCH:

The problem of assisting minority groups can be a very real one for the Department as evidenced by the Metis population who are of part Indian descent and who do not have treaty status.

A Royal Commission was set up by the Provincial Government of Alberta in 1939 to study the problems of the Metis people in Alberta. During the course of the study, petitions were received from many Metis asking that colonies be set aside for them, along with assistance to build homes and set themselves up as farmers, and that a quarter section of land be allotted to each settler, tax free. It was also requested that the title to the allotment be retained by the Provincial Government so that the land could not be sold. On the basis of the Commission's study and recommendations, the Metis Betterment Act was passed in 1940 whereby the requested colonies came into being. Though this Act, in a sense, tended to segregate the Metis who applied for land on the colonies, it could be termed a stepping stone to the eventual independence and final integration of these people in our urban, predominantly white society.

Five tracts of land in Northern Alberta were set aside for the use of the settlers and are now being operated as eight separate units. On March 31, 1940, the total number of persons, members and dependents, on the colonies was 718. The latest figures indicate that the total population is now approximately 2,100. The main activity in 1940 was lumbering, followed by grain growing and the raising of livestock and few, if any, of the settlers had any possessions of their own. At the present time one settler on the Beaver River East Colony has over a hundred head of cattle and is farming on a large scale. Ten settlers on timbered areas are now operating their own saw-mills and hire resident people to help in these operations.

Schooling facilities have been improved and it is of particular interest that this term, fifteen students from the various Metis colonies are attending High School in several parts of the Province. Seventeen more are attending the Vocational School at Grouard, operated by the Northland School Division. Academic courses are given at Grouard, as well as trades training. (To Page 6)

o From the Minister's Notebook

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Q. When was Alberta's Department of Public Welfare organized and what was the situation in this field prior to that time?

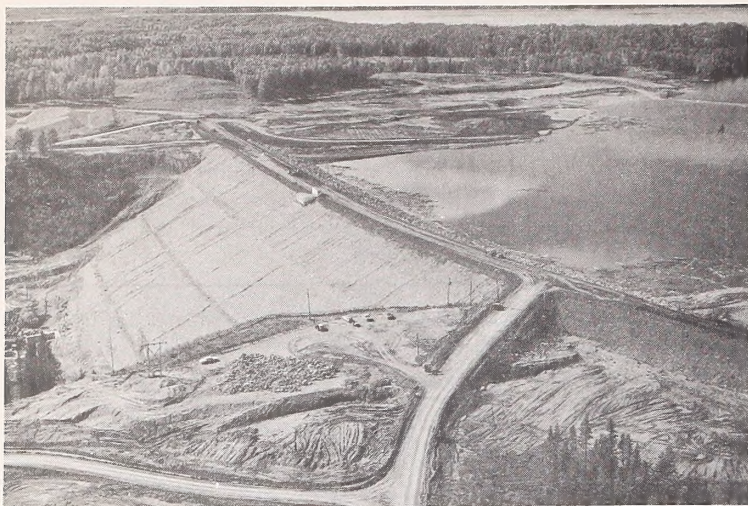
A. Welfare programs were developed individually and were administered variously by different departments. For example, the Children's Protection Act of 1909 was first administered by the Attorney General's Department as was the Mother's Allowance Act of 1919. Old Age Pensions started in this province in 1929 administered by the Workmen's Compensation Board which was responsible to the Provincial Treasurer. Indigent relief, prior to 1930 was a municipal responsibility up to three months and was under the Department of Health. In 1930 the Bureau of Charity and Relief was established and was transferred from Municipal Affairs to the Department of Public Works, then to the Department of Health.

This pattern continued until 1944 when the Department of Public Welfare was established under the Minister of Health.

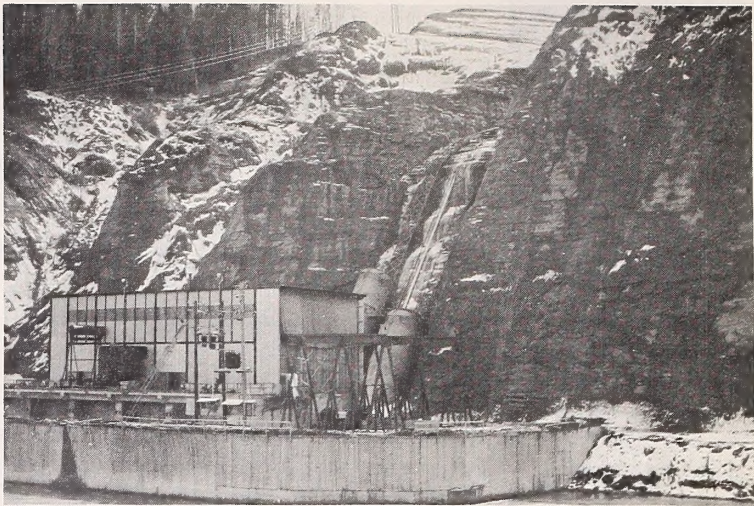
In 1952 Welfare became a separate department with its own minister.

Q. What general changes have been made in the approach to Public Welfare during the past few years?

A. Welfare services have of course expanded. In (To Page 6)



ON THE BRAZEAU: Big Bend Dam creates storage capacity of 360,000 acre-feet and enables increased flow in the North Saskatchewan during winter months, thereby providing relief for industrial waste problem below Edmonton.



END OF CANAL: Big Bend Powerhouse, about 40 miles south west of Drayton Valley, showing lower penstock sections for units one and two installed. Generators are fed from reservoir twelve miles up stream by means of canal. (Calgary Power Photos)

FLEXIBILITY IN POWER RESOURCES

EXCERPTS FROM THE 1963 REPORT OF THE ALBERTA POWER COMMISSION

● J.G. MacGREGOR, Chairman ● J.E. OBERHOLTZER, Member ● W.C. WHITTAKER, Member ● J.L. REID, Member and Secretary

During 1963, Alberta's progress has continued to be most gratifying. Agriculture, mineral production, construction activity, manufacturing and the output of electricity have all presented a favorable picture. To keep pace with the growing industrialization of the province, new, large thermal and hydro generating installations are at various stages of completion and planning. The increase in K.W.H. generated over that of the previous year - a good indicator of economic conditions - has been 11%.

Traditionally, Alberta's economy has been based on agricultural production. During the past fifteen years, however, while its agriculture output has increased, the growth in mineral production and in the manufacturing industries has shot upward to the extent that agriculture now accounts for less than a quarter of the total net value of production. Today, agriculture, mining (including oil and natural gas), construction and manufacturing share almost equally in the total production. Since these four major industries each contribute more or less equally to the public welfare, the overall stability of the province's economy is assured, because it no longer has to depend upon the fluctuations in the single industry such as agriculture, which, in turn, is dependent on the variations of the weather from year to year. Even at that, it is encouraging to see that, dollar-wise, and especially this year, agriculture's contribution to the Province's production is increasing. The value of manufactured shipments continues to increase year by year as new plants commence production and existing plants expand their operations.

In view of the foregoing, it is not surprising that, during the last decade outward signs of prosperity - paved and gravelled roads, vehicle registrations, use of electric power, etc., - have all shown increases well above the average Canadian rate.

The K.W.H. generated per capita - another good indicator - continues to increase. During the year, Alberta's population increased at about the usual rate and the K.W.H. generated per capita increased from 2750 to 2979. Ten years ago, in 1953, this per capita figure was 1338, so that the average person in Alberta is now using nearly two and one-half times as much electricity as he did ten years ago.

* * * *

Transmission lines in the Province increased by 734 miles to a total of 15,311, which includes 3,118 miles of Company-owned farm lines. Distribution line mileage increased to 5,819. The total mileage of all farm lines increased by 1,209 miles, so that the total farm mileage at the end of 1963 was 43,688. The total mileage of all power lines in the Province at the end of December, 1963, was 61,700.

* * * *

RICH ENERGY RESOURCES:

Alberta is so richly endowed with energy resources from which we can produce cheap power that, costwise, except for local areas, imported power cannot compete. The power situation in the Province is, fortunately, most flexible and it is quite possible that factors such as the development of the Hines Creek Iron Ore, the Smoky River

coals, the further discovery of oil and gas, or the feasibility of some other source of power, or indeed, development of the oil sands, might change the picture. Alberta, with its oil, gas oil sands and coal, has some 80% of all Canada's known fossil fuels. Over 95% of the energy available in Canada from fuels is concentrated in oil sands and oil, gas and coal reserves of the three western Provinces and over four-fifths of this potential is in Alberta. The energy available from the oil sands is one and one-half times as great as all the rest of Alberta's fossil fuels combined.

By far the cheapest power in Alberta at the moment is that generated in the Wabamun steam plant. Two units there are using coal as fuel and future units will also do that. Using coal under the conditions present at Wabamun will produce power even more cheaply than by using natural gas.

While Wabamun and future plants will use increasing amounts of coal and will thereby increase Alberta's coal output, they will have little bearing on the conventional coal-mining industry. For some time in the future, coal for thermal power plants will be strip-mined. During a full year's operation, the Wabamun plant today uses something of the order of 1,000,000 tons of coal. Alberta's present output of coal for all purposes is slightly less than 3,000,000 tons. As new coal-fired plants are built, the output of coal will increase by leaps and bounds.

Such power plants require major coal fields to provide for their needs for 30 or 40 years. Only a relatively few areas have coal deposits which make them ideal for power generation requirements. An ideal field must have at least 100 million tons of coal which has an overburden of not more than 100 feet, and it must be located close to a large supply of cooling water.

As such fields get used up it will probably be necessary to use three or four smaller fields and to pipe the coal from them into a central power plant located on some body of cooling water. So far, moving coal by pipe line has not worked too well. The Research Council of Alberta, however, has been carrying on some studies that appear to hold prospects for the development of a feasible means of doing this. If these studies can be carried to a successful conclusion, possibly by means of a pilot plant, they will have a tremendous bearing on reviving the coal industry. (To Page 5)

o The Alberta Power Commission's duties, as set out under The Power Commission Act, are of a regulatory and supervisory nature. The Commission does not own or operate any power plants, transmission lines or distribution systems. In this respect it is different from the Power Commissions in all other provinces except Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. The principal duties of The Alberta Commission are to collect and study power statistics of the Province so that the people will have a true picture of the industry, to study hydro-electric sites and other power possibilities and to keep under review the farm electrification program of Alberta.

Because of the nature of Alberta's fuel resources, the ideal arrangement in the near future would be to generate some 90% of the K.W.H. needed in the Province in steamplants, leaving the remaining 10% to be generated by hydro plants. The peak load in the Province during 1963 was 938 M.W. Since the capacity to supply much of this load is only needed for such short intervals of time, the hydro plants, generally speaking, are well suited to perform this function. Hydro plants representing about 40% of the generating capacity of the Province would be required to carry the necessary portion of the peak load and, on doing so, would generate 10% or less of the K.W.H.

OUR RIVERS' FLOW:

As compared to the rivers in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec and those in British Columbia, the flow of our rivers does not lead itself to producing power which we need 24 hours a day and 365 days in the year. The reason is that nearly all the water comes rushing down from the mountains during May and June and then for the rest of the year the rivers are almost dry. Our greatest demand for power does not occur during these months of early summer, so our hydro plants and dams are built so as to store the summer water for use during the peak load periods of the winter. As our load grows to the point where huge storage projects will be economical, we may expect to see a move back to using some of our streams for base load.

There are several hydro sites which can be developed when more peaking power is needed and, indeed, some that might be used to carry base load for several years to come. Some of these are on the Bow River; other sites are on the Saskatchewan and Brazeau Rivers and the Athabasca River. The total hydro power potential of Northern Alberta exceeds 3,000,000 H.P., of which 2,000,000 H.P. is available on the Athabasca river below Smith. The remainder is on the Smoky, and on the Slave and Peace rivers.

From recent studies made by the Alberta Power Commission and the Water Resources Branch, the Peace River presents some interesting possibilities. While the bridges at Dunvegan and Peace River Town are limiting factors on the River's possible power development, the upper portion of the river from the British Columbia border to a point some 150 miles below Peace River Town is interesting. Perhaps the most interesting section of the river is that from the British Columbia border to the Dunvegan bridge in which the river falls 110 feet. The lower valley banks in this reach appear to be in a geological formation which will probably be suitable enough for a dam. From the mouth of Burnt River to the mouth of the Smoky River the geological formation appears less stable and less suitable for a dam. It appears, however, that there are possible sites further downstream for some 150 river miles below Peace River Town. Beyond that, the stream and its valley increase in width while the banks get lower, all of which are factors that make that reach of the river of doubtful value for power purposes. Vermilion chutes do not appear to hold any power possibilities.

All of this power (Seven sites on the Athabasca River capable of producing 2,000,000 H.P.) is within economical transmission distance of Edmonton and can be tied into the main transmission network, serving those areas of the Province which have heavy power requirements. The Six Mile Rapids site has been studied in some detail and, from an engineering standpoint, appears to be satisfactory. From the standpoint of the economics of the power business which is concerned with getting the cheapest power at any given time in the future, whether it be hydro or thermal, it appears that this site above Athabasca Town might be considered for development around 1972. It will be a rather spectacular development and quite a costly one and, for this reason, will not come into the realm of economic feasibility until the load in the Province is much more than it is today. In the meantime, the load can be supplied most economically by expansion of the Brazeau Dam and of the thermal plants.

The Big Bend hydro plant on the Brazeau is currently under construction. The power house, the first stage of which is now complete, is located 12 miles downstream from the main dam and storage reservoir.

Water from the Brazeau reservoir will reach the plant downstream by way of a canal. The outlet works at the upper end of the canal will include electrical and mechanical equipment associated with two turbine-pump units of 1,200 H.P. each. One of these units is now being installed in conjunction with the power plant downstream. When completed it will serve a double function, as a generator when the reservoir storage level is higher than the canal elevation, and as a pump when the reservoir is lower than the canal level, raising the stored water to the canal and thence to the power plant.

The Brazeau Dam, of course, was built primarily to increase the flow in the North Saskatchewan River during the winter months.

SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

FOR JULY

Municipal District Act

Within 5 days after the end of each month the secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(v).

Town and Village Act

Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 67(r).

July 1 - Appoint enumerator on or before this date. Sec. 112(1).

Enumerator lists to be prepared and delivered to secretary-treasurer prior to August 10. Sec. 112(4).

Alberta Hospitals Act

July 1 - Payment of requisition (if any) to municipal hospital districts must be made prior to this date. Sec. 16(3).

July 1 - First payment of Hospitalization Benefits Plan requisition due to Department of Municipal Affairs. Sec. 50(2) E.J.B. ●

There was an urgent and growing need to provide relief to the pollution problem which existed in that river below Edmonton during the low water period from October to April.

* * * *

FARM ELECTRIFICATION:

During 1963, 2,747 more farms were hooked up so that the total number of farms electrified as at the end of the year is 61,340. While, according to the 1961 census, Alberta had 73,212 farms which were being operated, only 65,816 of these were farms on which someone lived. The census included in this last figure 576 farms which were on Indian Reserves. Since 1,126 Indian homes are now receiving service under the Farm Electrification program, this means that service is being given to about 550 Indian homes that, by the census definition, are not farms. Since the figure for farms hooked up at the end of 1963 was 61,340, it follows that, if we are to arrive at the number of census farms served, 550 should be deducted from this figure. After deducting this, we are left with 60,790 farms served as compared to the census figure of 65,816 on which someone lives, so that 92% of the farms in Alberta are served.

* * * *

While there are 61,340 farmers connected, farm electrification also served 9,428 non-farm customers who would not have obtained service otherwise. The total number benefitting by the construction of these farm electrification lines is, therefore, 70,768. At the end of December, 1963, there were 43,688 miles of farm lines and, during the year, 1,209 miles had been constructed. It is interesting to compare these figures with a recent report appearing in the July, 1963, issue of Electrical Digest.

This report deals with rural electrification in Ontario and is as follows: "Ontario Hydro passed a significant milestone in its rural electrification program this spring by gaining its 500,000th rural customer. More than 97 per cent of the rural population has been supplied with electricity, including 138,000 farms. They are supplied by 48,500 miles of rural distribution line."

* * * *

CHECKING COSTS:

During the year, the Commission has checked all the cost statements which the Companies have rendered to R.E.A.s, showing the costs of building their lines. In addition to this, some field checks have been made on various farm areas. With very minor exceptions, these costs have always been found to be correct. These checks further show that the areas have been constructed at cost. The Power Companies are building these areas at cost and, from an engineering standpoint, they are building them efficiently.

The question of the correctness of operating charges made to farmers is constantly under study. We believe that the Power Companies are doing a remarkable job of keeping these costs down and of accounting to the farmers for them. In all the years to date, the actual costs have been less than the monthly charges made to the farmer in his power bill, so that, as the end of each year the Power Companies have been able to make a refund to the deposit reserves of the Associations. The operating charges made in Alberta appear to be reasonable and compare very favorably with those made by R.E.A.s who are operating in similar territory in the United States. ●

THE NEW LOOK OF WELFARE

(From Page 3)

Assistance is given these students through the Metis Rehabilitation Branch, Department of Public Welfare, otherwise they would probably be unable to attend from their own limited resources.

THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BRANCH:

This branch administers all pension programs, the Social Allowance and School Assistance Programs and the Rehabilitation Section.

The history of the development of public assistance in Alberta reflects a growing maturity of welfare programming to meet the changing needs of our time.

The first legislation in this area was the Mother's Allowance Act of 1919. Old Age Pensions were started in 1929 with a hospitalization provision passed in 1947, followed by the Old Age Assistance and Supplementary Pension in 1952 and medical services in 1953. The Widow's Pension was established in 1952 followed by the Provincial Disability Pension in 1953 -- preceding the Federal Disability Allowance by two years.

Probably the 1930's had the greatest impact on Public Assistance and it was in 1930 that the Government had to take deliberate and positive action to meet the consequences of unemployment by establishing the Bureau of Charity and Relief. Relief Work Camps and soup kitchens were provided to assist the homeless single men. Married men were given work for relief through timber contracts. Many lessons were learned during this difficult period which have affected and shaped the current administration and the philosophy of helping destitute citizens. The understanding of interdependency was reinforced -- that a man cannot "solo" within an economic or social unit, "no man is an island" -- that we must assume responsibility for helping economically and socially displaced persons. Demonstrations by unemployed persons were always to demand employment, not bigger and better hand-outs. This was true in the '30's as it was last spring when 6,000 men marched on the Houses of Parliament in England. Their demand was for jobs. It was quite common during the depression for an unemployed man to destitute himself completely before turning to "relief" -- thus handicapping himself and his family so that his children could not attain satisfactory schooling or, as happened all too frequently, the breadwinner deserted an intolerable domestic situation with no hope for his economic future.

It is from this healthy basic desire of the average man to work productively that a "stigma" is attached to unemployment assistance and there is agreement that there is something seriously wrong when a man cannot work, either through lack of jobs or his own initiative. Public Welfare administrators have also learned that a punitive approach, blaming and condemning persons in return for help given, is neither realistic nor constructive. The idea of making public assistance a contest between officials and individuals struggling for survival for themselves and their families becomes ludicrous.

Generally speaking, modern welfare programs, as in Alberta, need better public relations or interpretation as there are still serious-minded citizens who honestly believe we should regress to the 18 and 19th centuries, or even to the Elizabethan Poor Laws passed in 1601, and re-introduce such things as workhouses for the "poor" and a doctrine based on "less eligibility". It is important for us to realize that Alberta's Welfare Programs are based on a more enlightened philosophy and on living democratic principles.

The following is quoted from our pamphlet on Social Allowance (for unemployable persons) and Social Assistance (for unemployed employable persons):

PRINCIPLES:

General assistance programs in Alberta are founded on a belief in the worth and dignity of the individual and on the recognition that members of society are dependent on one another and the welfare of each individual is essential to the total welfare of the community.

Inherent in this belief is the right of every individual, regardless of his race, creed, residence or citizenship, to assistance when his need can be demonstrated and the conviction that no individual should have to meet a test of moral worthiness in order to receive assistance.

Every person receiving assistance should have the right to plan his own life as he chooses even though he has lost his financial independence. This means he should have the right to decide such things as: how he shall spend his financial assistance except if he fails to provide the necessities of life for himself and his dependents; where he shall live; what services he shall accept.

Also inherent in the belief is a respect for the privateness of

circumstances of every individual applying for or receiving assistance; his right to appeal any decisions concerning his application for assistance which he thinks are unjust, and also his right and obligation to take as much responsibility as he can in seeking a solution to his financial problems.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL:

A person who considers himself in economic need has a right to make application for Social Allowance or Social Assistance, but must be prepared to assume certain responsibilities in establishing his need.

He must have evidence that he has explored, within the limits of his ability and circumstances, every possibility of self-support; make a sworn declaration disclosing his present and potential income and assets and be prepared to make available to the welfare representative evidence to support his declaration. If he cannot obtain such evidence he should be prepared to give written permission to the representative to obtain the information. If he is in receipt of assistance he must report any changes in his income or any other changes in his circumstances.

Unemployment, although a grave problem and on the increase, constitutes only a portion of welfare expenditure. The greatest portion is spent on pensions, Social Allowance and Child Welfare whereas Unemployment Assistance totals only one-sixth of the total budget and this amount is 50% sharable with the Federal Government.

Looking ahead, although it is not possible to make accurate predictions, we can measure trends and we can plan, we must plan, as effectively as possible. For this reason the Department has introduced recently a division for social planning and development and is increasing the focus on rehabilitation. We are all familiar with the simile of equipping an ambulance at the foot of a cliff while neglecting to repair the fence at the top. It is our intention to spend more time on the prevention aspects of welfare, which must more and more include the concern and activity of the actual communities where people live and where the problems arise. ●

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

(From Page 3)

addition to the services mentioned under the previous question, provision was made for such things as the blind pension (1938), The Metis Betterment Act (1940), the Provincial Supplementary Allowance (1942), Hospital and Medical Services for pensioners (1947) and Old Age Assistance (1952). There are other programs both Provincial and Federal -- the latter including Family Allowance (1945), Old Age Security (1952) and so on.

Probably the most notable change in recent years was to approach the problem of giving assistance on a basis of need rather than on a categorical means test. The Social Allowance program enacted in 1961 began this concept and replaced four categorical type services; viz., Mother's Allowance, the Provincial Disability pension, Widow's Pension and the Supplementary Allowance. As may be seen, this greatly simplified complex and costly administration and it also meets need more realistically. An example of this would be a Disability Pensioner with dependents. Previously the fixed rate of disability pension did not allow for dependents whereas Social Allowance does provide for actual needs to maintain a basic standard of health and decency in food, clothing, shelter and health.

Q. How has municipal participation changed during this same period?

A. Municipal participation has changed in two ways, the first financial and the second in service. In April 1949 the municipalities ceased to contribute toward Old Age Pensions.

In 1958 the Province assumed 100% of the cost of Child Welfare (for children who are wards) and also 100% of the costs of Mother's Allowance cases. At the same time by way of grant to the municipalities, the Province assumed 80% of the costs of Public Assistance cases. This had formerly been 60%. In service, the Social Allowance program allowed municipalities to transfer all those cases deemed as 'unemployable' from their Public Assistance to the provincial Social Allowance program. In some areas this constituted the major portion of municipal assistance cases.

Q. What specific role does a municipality now play in the welfare field?

A. The municipalities are responsible for all cases of child neglect up to the point of a court order whereby the child becomes a ward of the Superintendent. In practice the municipal authorities frequently consult with our regional office representatives prior to taking court action. (To Page 7)

Under Public Assistance the municipalities are responsible for all indigent employable residents. A resident is defined as a person who has resided within a municipality on a self-supporting basis for 12 months out of the past 24 months. The municipalities do not administer any pension or Social Allowance cases or assistance to non-resident employable persons.

Q. What types of welfare payments or pensions are now made on the basis of need?

A. Need is used to determine eligibility and rates in both Social Allowance (for unemployable persons) and Social Assistance (for unemployed employable persons). The pension's applicants are subject to a means test and rates of payment are calculated on a fixed scale which is, unfortunately, sometimes not directly related to actual need. It is possible for a pensioner to have a few thousands of dollars and still qualify for payment under present regulations, and no allowance is made for dependents. This is why a needs test is generally more realistic in giving assistance of any sort.

Q. Does a municipality share in any of these?

A. Generally, no. To the best of my knowledge, municipalities do not use the deficit budget, needs test method of calculating assistance, except in the major urban centres.

Q. May a municipality provide welfare payments on the basis of need to persons other than those mentioned above?

A. Municipalities could adopt this method of calculating assistance. It would, however, require some training and learned skill to use it effectively. Unfortunately, without such a standard of meeting needs, assistance does vary from one part of the Province to another and citizens who are eligible for help do not have any consistent standard whereby they can receive assistance.

Q. Should not people receiving welfare payments be required to work for their payments? Why?

A. We do not believe people should be required to "work for relief." This is a totally negative approach to a very real problem. We do believe that jobs should and could be created whereby men could be employed at a living wage and paid by the contractor or employer, thus negating any need for a 'welfare' application.

Q. Can employment on a local program of public works be encouraged as a substitute for welfare payments?

A. This is of course already being done in many places through such programs as winter works. The thing here is that work must be productive in some sense so that there is an economic return for the money spent.

Q. Would you comment on the relationship if any existing between leisure, recreation and welfare.

A. Welfare, meaning the various assistance programs, does not seem to relate to leisure and recreation. However, in the larger sense of Human Welfare it is imperative to consider the increasing need for direct planning in leisure time and recreation activities. In the span of one lifetime or even less, the division of time for work and play had shifted for instance from the 10 hour work day and six day week to an eight hour day and five day work week. People do have more time to devote to their own interests and these interests have to be stimulated and developed. It isn't certain that this is the job of the Welfare Department.

Q. What is involved in 'the prevention aspects' of welfare?

A. This is rather a large subject to deal with briefly and in some ways it follows through from the previous question. Our concern centres most quickly about those families who are not on welfare and yet who have not really achieved social and economic stability - in other words, the 'marginal' families, a percentage of whom will end up on welfare either for money or for neglect of the children or as a broken home. We can frequently recognize that families who do come to us in a crisis could have been strengthened and avoided the breakdown if they had received some help a few years previously. So in this sense, prevention means early detection of families in trouble. Given support and counsel, many tragedies of broken homes could be avoided.

We believe that the local community has the first responsibility to its own families, not only for purposes of recreation and other facilities for leisure time activity, but also to become more aware of the 'marginal' families who need help. When a community learns to share its concern and responsibility with these families then a lot will be accomplished in the prevention aspects of welfare and it will be a better place to live, not only for the well-to-do families but for all.



THROUGH THE MAIL

Calgary, Alberta

Dear Sir:

I have just read the article on Carbon, the Village of the Month, in the April edition.

I am not of the vintage who remember the floods of those early days when lives were lost while attempting to cross the raging Kneehills Creek, but permit me to say that Mr. Walker and Mr. Hamilton could not have been drowned in 1902, as reported. The Walkers came to Canada in 1904, spent the winter in Calgary, and the next year moved to the Carbon district. Mr. Andrew Walker was my grandfather, and his son, also Andrew, my uncle.

I enjoy reading "The Counsellor" and find it both educational and interesting.

R.A. Young,
Personnel Administration Office

* * * *

Dear Mr. Cantelon:

Because of the work I do for various municipal bodies I find my subscription to The Municipal Counsellor a valuable assistant. As an Albertan it brings before me, by the people concerned, the issues of the day often more clearly than the local press.

When my copy arrives I leave it on my desk where it can be picked up by anyone waiting around, and my customers often express surprise that this kind of information is available.

I have often heard such weird statements about local government made by people who should know better, that I feel this paper should have a wider circulation. I am sure that anyone in municipal affairs must at times be surprised at questions they are asked, and I think that this paper is a wonderful source of information. Although it is not aimed at the ratepayer, it brings the department and the members of the various branches closer to the ratepayer with a better understanding of how they are trying to work in with the local people.

735 - 8th Avenue S.W.,
Calgary.

Yours sincerely,
Eve Bergman

* * * *

o To both writers, our thanks. The COUNSELLOR is meant primarily for municipal people and circulation is still increasing... even though we keep thinking the field is rather fully covered.

Can anyone correct that date?

o Ed

TO HOLD JOINT CONFERENCE

(From Page 1)

and Municipal dignitaries as well as representatives from industry and the appraisal field. A special program of social and sight-seeing activities has been arranged for the ladies.

A cordial invitation to attend the conference has been extended to all interested officials by J.B. Laidlaw, Alberta's Assessment Commissioner and President of the Canadian Association of Assessing Officers. (J.H.)

SUMMARY OF '64 LEGISLATION

(From Page 1)

Section 4 (2):

The amendment provides that the interest of a lessee in Crown property other than Indian lands shall be assessed to the lessee in the same manner as if he were the owner of the property.

It is to be noted also that the above amendment will not apply to an occupant of property owned by a municipality.

Section 7 (1):

Subsection (1) is amended by striking out the words "land that is not exempt from assessment and taxation" and by substituting in lieu the clarifying phrase "assessable lands".

Section 7 (2):

Subsection (2) is amended by striking out the words "land that is exempt from assessment and taxation" and by substituting the words "non-assessable land".

Section 8 (3) and (4):

Subsection (3) is amended and a new subsection (4) is added which provide:

(a) That lands used for residential or agricultural purposes shall continue to be assessed as such while so used, notwithstanding any change in designation which may result from rezoning to some other use. (To Page 8)

LONG IN THE SERVICE

The end of March brought the retirement from government service of D. Prokop, Supervisor of the Department's central filing system for the past seven years. Mr. Prokop began working in the General Office in September 1943, later searching titles for the Department of Municipal Affairs in the Land Titles Office. He took over the filing system with the retirement of Albert Turgeon in 1957.



D. PROKOP

Mr. Prokop was born in Western Ukraine and in 1912 moved with his parents to Canada and settled on a farm near Hemaruka, Alberta. He attended school at Vegreville and Edmonton where he completed his matriculation. After graduating from Normal School at Saskatoon, he taught for some time in public schools in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

To mark his retirement, Mr. Prokop was presented with a handsome set of luggage, gift of the staff of the Department. In making the presentation, D.R. Watson, Secretary-Accountant, thanked him for his many years of conscientious public service and on behalf of the Department wished him and Mrs. Prokop every success for the years ahead. (L.M.)

SUMMARY OF '64 LEGISLATION
(From Page 7)

(b) Land which is not zoned and which is not being used for a specific purpose shall be assessed on the basis of fair actual value.

Section 8a:

This amendment provides that any by-law passed pursuant to this section comes into force on January 1st of the year following the passing of the by-law.

Section 14:

- Section 14 is amended
- (a) by removing the words "Crown lands" from clause (r) of the exemption section, thereby allowing for the assessment of the interest of any lessee in Crown lands other than Indian Lands.
 - (b) to provide by a new clause (x) exemption from assessment of lands and improvements owned or held under lease by the Canadian Youth Hostel Association and not being operated for profit or gain while used exclusively for the purposes of the Association.

Section 26 (2) and (4):

- Section 26 is amended
1. as to subsection (2):
 - (a) by authorizing the addition to the assessment roll of the name and address of the purchaser of an assessable improvement.
 - (b) by authorizing the addition to the assessment roll of the name and address of the lessee of an assessable improvement or the holder of an assessable franchise, as the case may be.
 - (c) by authorizing the addition to the assessment roll the assessed value of land apart from the assessed value of improvements thereon and vice versa as well as the assessed value of a special franchise.
 2. as to subsection (4):

by providing that the valuation of every exempt property shall nevertheless be placed on the assessment roll. This provision will not of course extend to exempt farm buildings which are not now subject to valuation.

Section 28 (1) and (3):

- Section 28 is amended
- (a) as to subsection (1) to provide that the secretary-treasurer shall mail an assessment slip to every person whose name appears on the assessment roll not later than January 1st.
 - (b) as to subsection (3) by adding the words "or improvements" after the word "land" thus ensuring that the purchaser of an improvement will be entitled to the same status as the purchaser of land.

Section 30:

This amendment provides a new subsection (1) which requires the publication of the notice of the preparation of the assessment roll not later than January 1st next following.

Section 55:

Section 55 is amended as to subsection (1) by striking out the undefined word "property" and by substituting the words "land or im-

provement".

The above amendments become effective April 15, 1964 apart from those relating to Sections 4 and 8 of the Act, which changes are retroactive to October 30, 1963.

The County Act

Sections 3 and 4 have been amended to rearrange the provisions of the former sections in better sequence.

Amendments to sections 16a, 17, 17b, 18, 19 and 22 and a new section 16b provides a new method of choosing the representatives to sit on the school committee. This method provides for the election of school representatives by each of the towns or villages included in the county for school purposes. These representatives meet and determine the system of representation and choose from among themselves, up to the maximum permitted by section 17, the representatives to be appointed by the county council to the school committee. The new section 16b sets out the procedures to be followed by the representatives of the towns and villages with regard to the holding of their meetings, appointment of chairman and recording secretary and their choice of persons to sit on the school committee of the county.

In 1964 all of the towns and villages included in the county school division that do not have a representative on the school committee or where the term of office of the representative as expiring, arrangements will have to be made at the next regular election to elect a representative to sit on the new committee as provided for in the new section 16b.

A new section 28a has been added which provides that at the Annual meeting of the ratepayers of the county, the chairman shall provide for the discussion of school affairs as the first order of business at which time electors of towns and villages shall be entitled to participate. This section also provides for a new notice of Annual meeting for counties.

A new section 28b requires the secretary-treasurer of the county to mail a copy of the school committee minutes to all elected school representatives from the towns and villages.

The Municipalities Assistance Act

Section 4 has been amended to provide that in future years the affidavit setting out the population and such other relevant information shall be forwarded to the Minister on or before January 31st. If a census is to be taken it shall be taken before the 25th of January in the year in which the census return is submitted to the Minister. (Concluded next issue)

When one door is shut, another opens. o Cervantes

FOR PROJECTS OF A LASTING NATURE

CENTENNIAL GRANTS OFFERED

Grants to a maximum of \$2 per capita are being offered municipalities to assist them in carrying out approved projects commemorating Canada's 100 birthday in 1967. Details of the plan are contained in a recent release from the Alberta Centennial Committee of which Hon. Ambrose Holowach, Provincial Secretary, is chairman. The release has been mailed to municipal officials and others throughout the Province.

According to the release, projects to be eligible must be "of a lasting nature . . . and must have a reasonable chance of completion by 1967." They may include the acquisition and construction buildings, parks or other capital works and the acquisition or restoration of buildings of "historic or architectural merit." Provision is also made to encourage the publication of books and music as well as the creation of paintings and works of art.

Projects already being assisted under the federal Municipal Development and Loan Act or under the Province's Recreational Facilities Grants program are not eligible for centennial grants. In this vein also it is pointed out that projects eligible for aid under the Winter Works Incentive program may receive centennial grants up to an amount where the "total contribution of the Government of Canada towards the cost of an approved project shall not exceed 50% of the project." Where the total would amount to more than one-half, the money paid as a centennial grant will be reduced accordingly.

Applications for the approval of projects should be mailed to the Alberta Centennial Committee, Department of the Provincial Secretary, Legislative Building, Edmonton before the end of 1965 and must be accompanied by a copy of the pertinent by-law or resolution of the municipal council. Two or more municipalities may undertake a joint project and where this is done a certified copy of the agreement must be sent in with the application.